

SOME *SPHINGIDAE* FROM THE EAST.

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(With three text-figures.)

1. *Oxyambulyx phalaris* Jord. (1916).

♀. *Oxyambulyx wildei*, Rothschild & Jordan (*err. determ.*), *Nov. Zool.* ix. Suppl. p. 204 no. 165. pl. 8. fig. 4. ♀ *nec* fig. 3. ♂; Milne Bay.

♂. *Oxyambulyx phalaris* Jordan, in Seitz, *Grossschmett.* x. pl. 61e (1916).

The series of *Oxyambulyx* which we have received from New Guinea since the publication of the Revision proves that there are two species side by side, differing in colour and structure. The two specimens which we had when we wrote the Revision were referred by us to *O. wildei* Misk. (1891), and we find now that only the male belongs to that species, while the female is an example of the new species, which is the larger of the two.

♂. Wings, *upperside*. Forewing drab brown in fresh specimens, more fawn-colour in somewhat worn ones, much darker than in *O. wildei*; for markings cf. figures (*ll. cc.*); the terminal band broader than in *O. wildei*; the olive-black submarginal line more than twice as broad as in *wildei*.—Hindwing, more deeply coloured than in *wildei*; the brown speckling denser, and the basal patch less contrasting than in *wildei*.

Underside. The dark scaling a deep chestnut in the distal area of the wings, the lines blackish, the limbal band drab, and the proximal area shaded with drab; abdominal area of hindwing more or less pure drab.

Body more deeply coloured than in *O. wildei*, particularly on the underside, which is more or less deep chestnut colour.

♀. Body and wings, on the *upperside*, of a pale chocolate tint slightly washed with drab. Markings and underside as in the male. Anal tuft deep chestnut, appearing almost black.

Genitalia. ♂. Apical margin of eighth sternite slightly incurved laterally, excurved medianly, the broad and very short lobe thus formed somewhat curved upward (= inward), but its angles not tuberculiform. Harpe differs from that of *O. wildei* as follows: in *wildei* the ventral process is long and narrow (text-fig. 2), while in *phalaris* it is short and broad (text-fig. 1); the upper process is much slenderer in *phalaris* than in *wildei* and sharply pointed, and there are in *phalaris* no teeth proximally to this process, the ridge extending from the process basad being smooth. The long serrate ridge of the penis-sheath is nearly straight in *wildei*, and reaches beyond the apex of the apical process of the sheath; in *phalaris* the ridge is curved about halfway round the sheath, and therefore does not reach to the tip of the apical process.—♀. The eighth tergite is medianly sinuate in both species, but the sinus is rather deeper and the lobes much less broad in *wildei* than in *phalaris*. The vaginal cavity, in *phalaris*, is continued on to the postvaginal plate by a median depression which is flanked on each side by an obtuse longitudinal ridge; in *wildei*, on the contrary, the cavity is

posteriorly bounded by a transverse obtuse ridge which is highest in the centre ; in *wildei*, moreover, the post-vaginal plate is flat, slightly concave, and smooth, not wrinkled except laterally.

We have two subspecies :

(a) *O. phalaris phalaris* (text-fig. 1).

Literature as above, the female figured in the Revision and the male figured in Seitz belonging to this subspecies.

A very deeply coloured geographical race, recognised by the deep chestnut colour of the dark portions of the underside, both on body and wings.

Length of forewing : ♂, 56–58 mm. ; ♀, 58–61 mm.

Hab. Dutch and British New Guinea, a series of both sexes, some collected by Meek and others by Pratt. Type from the Ninay valley in the Arfak Mts., 3,500 ft., Nov. 1908 to Jan. 1909.

FIG. 1—*O. ph. phalaris*.



FIG. 2—*O. wildei*.

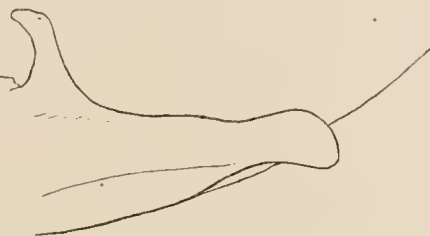


FIG. 3—*O. s. celebensis*.



(b) *O. phalaris carycina* subsp. nov.

♀. Pallidior, magis ochracea, linea obliqua costali antemediana ante cellulae angulum posticum posita.

Long. al. ant, 56 mm.

Hab. Rook Island, July 1913 (A. S. Meek), one female.

The specimen is slightly worn, which may be the reason why it is paler than our palest female of *O. ph. phalaris* ; the hindwing particularly has the dark colouring much reduced in extent, the ochraceous ground-colour being as prominent as in *O. wildei*. The terminal band inclusive of the broad line bounding it, above and below, and the anal tuft are as in *O. ph. phalaris* ; the

chestnut scaling in the outer area of the forewing beneath is also deeper than in *O. wildei*, and the genital armature agrees with that of *phalaris*.

The subapical oblique bar in the cell of the forewing does not form a direct continuation of the brown vein-streak R^3 , but ends below the lower angle of the cell. On receipt of more material this may prove to be an individual distinction only.

2. *Oxyambulyx substrigilis tattina* subsp. nov.

♂. Linea submarginali alae anticae minus curvata infra indistincta, armatura genitali diversa.

Long. al. ant. 55 mm.

Hab. Battak Mts., North-East Sumatra (Dr. L. Martin), one male.

Forewing conspicuously shaded with olive-green, especially between the antemedian lines and again between the discal ones; the subapical costal triangular olive-green patch broader and less oblique than in *O. s. substrigilis*; the marginal band less widened before middle; the black submarginal line not accompanied on the proximal side by a pale line, but instead by a diffuse olive-green shadow; the subbasal round spot drab in this specimen. Hindwing more tawny than in the male of *O. s. substrigilis*.

On the *underside* the forewing almost uniformly reddish tawny in the area proximal to the grey marginal border; the latter less wide before middle than in *O. s. substrigilis*, and the submarginal line bounding it not distinct, being diffuse and but little darker than the area proximal to it.

The apex of the ventral process of the harpe almost symmetrical, the apical margin of it slightly incurved; distally of the long pointed upper process indications of teeth. Inside-rod of penis-sheath broad, not pointed.

3. *Oxyambulyx semifervens celebensis* subsp. nov. (text-fig. 3).

♂. Alis angustioribus, antica margine exteriore in medio recto, macula diffusa fusca subapicali magna, linea submarginali supra et subtus olivaceo nigra.

Long. al. ant. 39 mm., lat. 12 mm.

Hab. Maros, South Celebes, July 30, 1906 (Dr. L. Martin), one male.

In shape and colouring recalling *O. subocellata* Feld.(1874). The forewing has two subbasal grey-bordered spots below the cell as in *semifervens* Walk. (1864); the discal markings are distinct, as in many *subocellata*, and the olivaceous-black subapical cloud also reminds one of that species; the submarginal line, which is olive-black both above and below, is distinct to R^3 (= vein 4 of Herrich-Schäffer) and is curved as in *O. s. semifervens*; the distal margin is straight from below apex. The anal angle of the hindwing is less produced than in *subocellata* and slightly more than in *semifervens*.

On the *underside* the forewing bears blackish lunules on the disk; the grey marginal band is as broad as in *semifervens*. Distal margin of hindwing blackish; this narrow band indented at the veins on the proximal side.

As in *semifervens* the harpe without the long upper process found in *subocellata*; the ventral process long and narrow (text-fig. 3), very different from that of *O. s. semifervens*.